Sylvia,

This email is a formal request for technical support from EPA for the Portland Harbor in-water Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. Adequate technical support in the form of database management and data presentation is critical to the success of the government team in analyzing data, identifying data gaps and directing the Lower Willamette Group in collecting additional information. Over the past year, NOAA and DEQ have provided the ongoing technical support that the government team needed to do its work. Ben Shorr (NOAA) and Jordan Palmeri (DEQ) served the team by analyzing data for individual team members and subgroups to answer specific questions, and they participated in team meetings to present and describe data during team discussions. Due to budget cuts, DEQ recently lost Jordan's full time work on the Portland Harbor project, and NOAA's ability to allocate Ben's time to Portland Harbor is limited (in addition, Ben will be completely unavailable from late February until July 2006).

As the lead agency for the in-water portion of the Portland Harbor site, EPA is responsible for ensuring that the project has the resources it needs to succeed. The government team is in need of both short term and long term technical support from EPA in two key areas: (1) managing and working with the SEDQUAL database, and (2) performing GIS work.

Tasks associated with managing and working with the SEDQUAL database to support the government team include:

- *immediate* use of SEDQUAL to enable the team's analysis of the Floating Percentile Method,
- *immediate* use of SEDQUAL to design, analyze and operate the Food Web Model,
- use of SEDQUAL to analyze BSAFs for the benthic community,
- running statistical iterations of bioassay data contained in SEDQUAL to support work on the Ecological Risk Assessment, and
- extracting information from SEDQUAL to evaluate physical, ecological and human health data gaps for the RIFS.

Tasks associated with GIS needs involve *immediate* work on GIS data manipulation and presentation to support refinement of data gaps for the RIFS. This includes using analytical and bioassay data in NOAA's Query Manager system, importing it to Arc-Map, and manipulating and presenting the data in GIS format in Arc-Map for government team members.

In addition, some level of coordination of the technical support for government team members is needed to ensure that the team is consistent in its analysis and use of Portland Harbor data. EPA technical support would meet this need by providing a point-person for all technical support requests, that could coordinate data management projects and communicate with team members about the methods and approaches used in data analysis. Without a point-person to provide and coordinate technical support, more technical needs will go unmet, the government team's effectiveness will be compromised, and we will risk inconsistency in our data analysis and use.

As DEQ's Portland Harbor Project Managers, we ask that you take the actions necessary to meet this critical need. We appreciate your support and would be happy to talk with you further about this.

Sincerely,

Keith and Jim

cc: Eric and Chip